Benefit of debt relief scheme, 1990 to SCs/STs

869. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the proposals to give benefit of Agriculture and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 to the members of the Scheduled Castes/Tribes who have borrowed from Notionalised Banks; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990, was formulated by Government for providing debt relief to farmers, landless labourers, artisans, and weavers who have taken loans from public sector banks and regional rural banks. Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe borrowers coming under the above categories were eligible like others for debt-relief under the scheme. As per information available as on 31st July, 1991, as reported by Reserve Bank of India, 32,02,842 SCs/STs beneficiaries were given debt relief under the ARDR Scheme involving an amount of Rs. 708.78 crores. The Scheme has come to a close on March 31, 1991.

Newsitem captioned 'Pak Ship Arms to Bombay Shores'

@870. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated 5.2.1993 captioned 'Pak ships arms to Bombay shores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to nab the concerned gang of smugglers, and to effectively plug the loop-hole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the news item. The Customs formations on the West Coast were suitably alerted. However, no case of landing of arms in or around Bombay has come to notice.

D.A. to Central Government Employees

871. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI:
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the next instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due for payment to Central Government employees from 1.1.93 as per the existing norms;

(b) if so, details thereof with amount of such payment due scalewise;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action for early payment of such allowance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) As per the exising instructions based on the recommendations of the 4th Pay Commission, the additional instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Govt. employees is calculated on the basis of percentage increase in the 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Worker (General) 1960—100) over the average index of 608, to which the existing scales of pay are related. Employees drawing pay upto Rs. 3500/- p.m. are entitled to 100 per cent neutralisation, those drawing pay above Rs. 3500/- p.m. and upto 6000/- p.m. are entitled to 75 per cent neutralisation and those drawing pay above Rs. 6000/-

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@Previously unstarred question 277, Transferred from 24th Feb., 1993.